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## **Senate Bill 1 Restores Rights, Protects Police**



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STATEHOUSE — Rep. Jud McMillin (R-Brookville) sponsored Senate Bill 1, which seeks to provide remedy to the Barnes v. State case. He, along with many other legislators, citizens and law enforcement officers had concerns that this case set a misguided precedent by stating that an individual never has the right to forcefully resist the unlawful intrusion of the government.

“Not only have we restored the law, but we have made it better,” said Rep. McMillin. “We have defined how a person can lawfully protect their home and have put additional safeguards in place to protect police.”

Senate Bill 1 changed drastically in the House from the version that was passed by the Senate. Rep. McMillin worked tirelessly on this bill to garner support from all parties involved. The bill passed in the House on a final reading by a vote of 74 to 24.

“As chairman of the committee that heard this bill, it was important to me that we work to have support of all parties involved,” said Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Avon). “We worked closely with the Prosecutors’ Association, office of the Attorney General, the Sherriff’s Association and the Association of Chiefs of Police.”

This legislation restores a property owner's right to protect themselves against anyone who acts unlawfully as has always been defined by the law. Indiana's self-defense statutes were created in 1976 and amended in 2006.

"I think we can all agree that a person should be able to protect themselves against unlawful action. This bill honors that belief and upholds Castle Doctrine," said Rep. McMillin. "This bill also recognizes the unique duty law enforcement has. It ensures that we are not providing criminals safe havens to conduct illegal activities."

Simply put, this bill puts Indiana back into a pre-Barnes position.

"Its a good bill. Its the right thing to adopt," said Speaker of the House Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis). "I proudly cast my vote for it because it takes us back to where we've been: in the right spot after courts have looked at this for 200 years."

Senate Bill 1 now returns to the Senate for approval of changes. Once approved, it will move to the Governor's Desk, where if signed, the bill will go into effect upon passage.

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